

THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER.

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Raleigh, N. C.

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RALEIGH, N. C., OCT. 27, 1891.

(This paper entered as second-class matter at the Post Office in Raleigh, N. C.)

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N. R. P. A.

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Any one of our subscribers who may be in arrears, and who will pay us what he is due us and send one additional dollar before the 1st of November, shall have The Progressive Farmer till the 1st of January, 1892. Remember that this offer holds good only till the 1st of November. All who are in arrears after the 10th of November, will be dropped from our list.

THE SUB-TREASURY PLAN.

The Lenoir Topic wants to know which of the Sub-Treasury bills we had reference to when we said that either of them or "the Sub Treasury" would be better than the national banking system. "The Vance bill," the "Pickler bill" are so near the same, except as to details, that there is really no need to make a distinction. The new Sub Treasury or financial bill has not been made public yet. What it will be we cannot say, but it possibly will be something like the two bills mentioned above.

"Commercial Indicators" have shown that from 90 to 95 per cent. of the business of this country is now done on credit. The New York clearing house reports show every week that more business is transacted than there is money in circulation. But not more than is in existence, for there is plenty of money in the world, but it is not available.

For some years, perhaps since 1872, we have been threatened with grave commercial disasters. Failures have grown from a little over three hundred per annum to more than 8,000. These are commercial failures and do not include the thousands of failures by farmers whose homes and goods are sold to satisfy mortgages every year.

These disasters almost invariably come during the fall and winter months when there is a great demand for money to move the crops. Even Secretary Windom admitted this last January when he said in a speech that "there will always be great danger at those times under any cast-iron system of currency such as we now have." He further admitted that there would have been a great financial crash last year if the government had not disbursed \$75,000,000 in two months and a half to handle the crops.

Our system is not flexible enough. In the West there is a great demand for money to move the grain crops. In the South it requires a vast amount to buy the cotton. If money comes high to the produce buyers, the farmers must pay the premium. In about four months the great bulk of the crops must be handled.

There is no reason why money based upon the staple crops should not be as good as any other. The money could be advanced on grain from June to September. It would find its way into all channels of trade. From September to March the cotton and tobacco crops would be partly sold and partly warehoused. These crops amount to not less than \$600,000,000 annually. If one-third only is warehoused it will answer the purpose and 80 per cent. of its value goes into circulation, and in

stead of stagnation in price and consequent hard times, prices will be kept up according to supply and demand, for the world must have it. But when all is thrown on the market at one time there is danger of stagnation and low prices, because the people of the world do not need it as fast as it goes on the market. Hence the speculators have learned how to manipulate it systematically, and of course their work does not benefit the farmers.

But while this may be good money for all purposes, it is not necessary that there be no banking at all. Banks will be needed just as before to furnish a stable currency and for business purposes generally, but they will not have a monopoly then, only a fair division, and while they furnish the stable currency, the Sub Treasury would furnish the flexible and do it exactly at the critical period and there would be no unheard of low prices for staple products as has been the case so often in past years.

Of course this is all new. None of us know half of it, but we do know that a change is needed. All reformers have been scorned and derided. They have been called fanatics. The friends of the Sub Treasury have been called all sorts of names, but still the measure is growing in favor. Were it not for political effect it would have ten able advocates to every one it now has. But people are thinking. Many now see that anything that will benefit and protect the producers is sure to benefit the public at large. The business and professional people would get better pay for their work, business would be done on nearly a cash basis. Mechanics and factory hands might have to pay a little more tax and pay more for the necessities of life, but wages would be higher and everything more brisk. It would not be any advantage to shysters and certain classes of speculators, but it would be money in the pockets of our farmers. That is all that is needed to make a prosperous, happy nation.

MEETING OF ENTOMOLOGISTS.

Insect Life for October, the initial number of Volume IV, has just been issued by the Division of Entomology of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. It is mainly devoted to a report of the third annual meeting of the Association of Economic Entomologists, recently held at Washington. Thirty eight persons were in attendance, and many interesting and valuable papers were presented and discussed. Of the matter presented in this number the inaugural address of the President, Mr. James Fletcher, Entomologist of the Dominion of Canada, is particularly noticeable. This address covers twelve pages, and is replete with valuable suggestions and advice to the student and worker in economic entomology. Mr. Fletcher directs attention to the lack of reliable data for estimating the actual pecuniary loss to the farmer resulting from the ravages of noxious insects, and for further estimating the amount actually saved by the judicious use of insecticides or by the adoption of other remedial or preventive measures recommended by entomologists. Several of the published estimates of cash losses are cited. One of the earliest estimates was that of Dr. Shimer in 1864. He placed the loss for this year alone in the one State of Illinois, to the corn and grain crops through the depredations of a single species of insects, the chinch bug, at \$73,000,000. He further states, by way of example of what may be done to mitigate insect attacks, that in the States of North Dakota and Minnesota there has been during the present year a probable saving (from the ravages of grasshoppers) due directly to the advice of entomologists of not less than \$400,000. This saving was accomplished by fall plowing and the use of "hopperdozers." An estimate that has been generally accepted is that about one-tenth of the agricultural products of the United States is annually destroyed by insects. In other words, if we accept the estimate of our products at \$3,800,000,000, it will be seen that \$3,800,000 are annually lost through insects.

In commenting upon the President's address, Professor Riley mentioned the fact that most entomologists who have had occasion to write of the losses due to insects had quoted the statement of Walsh, who estimated a quarter of a century ago that the annual losses from injurious insects in this country were \$300,000,000. Since this time the values in crops have greatly increased and the proportionate injury should have increased accordingly; but we must take into consideration the advance in economic entomology, which has greatly reduced the loss. It should also be borne in mind that loss is relative, and that with a decrease in the amount of a crop, its money value is correspondingly increased. At the close of the address a committee was appointed to prepare statistics of the amount of the insect damage and of the benefit resulting from the work of economic entomologists.

EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

SACRAMENTO, CAL., Oct. 17, 1891.

Leaving Washington on the 11th, and arriving at Des Moines, Iowa, on the 13th, I found the State bodies of both the orders well represented. The meeting of both these bodies at the same time and place, it is hoped, will result in the consolidation of both in closer and more fraternal relations and co-operation, since their objects and purposes are essentially the same. President Joseph, of our Alliance, delivered the ablest address which I have been my fortune to hear, and I trust the readers of THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER may have an opportunity of reading it. It will dispel the illusion that plain farmers are not capable of doing their own thinking.

At night Governor Bois had a big reception at the hands of his party friends, and the two Alliances held a joint meeting, at which several speeches were made, and were well received.

The brethren of Iowa are hopeful and enthusiastic, and should the union of the two orders be effected, this great State will be found in the front rank of Alliance States.

Taking a seat at 3.30 a. m. on the 14th, on "The Overland Flyer," the fast train on the Pacific coast, on the Union Pacific Road, I was soon under full headway for this point.

Nebraska is a beautiful and fertile country, but as we proceed westward the more sparse the population. Reaching Cheyenne in the early morning we found a beautiful and stirring young city, with all the push and activity characteristic of this progressive and enterprising Western people. From Cheyenne we began to climb the Rockies, and from that point to the Sierra Nevadas, nearly 1,300 miles, there is a sameness that makes the trip intolerably monotonous, and which nothing can relieve save pleasant and congenial companions. Not a tree, save a few specimens of scrub pines on the apex of the Rockies, not a bird—but two small running streams—not an animal, except occasional bunches of cattle and horses, but everywhere, on all sides, as far as the eye could reach, the naked plains and mountains, covered with the scrubby sage bush. The villages seemed to have been built and supported by the road, and for the most part consisted of small, uncomfortable huts, and around which lounged indolent whites and straggling Indians. The broad, level plains, broken by chains of towering rock, in the rarified air, at an elevation of from 4,000 to 7,000 feet, wearied the constant, anxious gaze, in search for something to relieve the monotony. Occasionally, for hundreds of miles, a picture of charming beauty breaks upon the eye. Peering above the horizon of a dull, ashen brown, stood pyramids of the eternal snows, which glistened and glowed against the soft background of the deep blue sky, like shafts of burnished silver. I had fancied that in many of its physical characteristics the Rocky mountains resembled the Appalachian range. Especially was I disappointed by the absence of any vegetation, and the abruptness and rugged grandeur which so charms the artist and the lover of nature in the beautiful mountains of the Atlantic Seaboard. Is it possible for this vast and barren country—the ancient seat of volcanoes—ever to be made subservient to the demands of life and of civilization? This question I fairly well settled in my own mind, until seeing at a station a small garden patch, in which was growing various vegetables and Irish potatoes to great perfection. It was irrigated by water which had been conveyed to the station, a distance of twelve miles, by the railroad. Further on we were delighted to run up on a beautiful park of green grass, in which were various kinds of fruit trees and white poplars, growing luxuriantly. This, to my mind, opens a grand field of possible achievement for Milbourne, the rain manufacturer. By the way, I see that he has closed an immense contract with some of our Western people to supply them with needed rain during the months of June, July and August of next year, at ten cents per acre.

Who knows but that the government will establish in the near future a rain supply system by which this vast waste of hundreds of millions of acres may be made to bloom as a garden? Would it be incompatible with the achievements of human genius, which have so distinguished it marvelous progress for the past half century? Wouldn't it be a happy and grand consummation if a sub-agent of the government, stationed in one of these great plains, could telegraph the Weather Bureau at Washington, that a given area within his jurisdiction was in need of rain, and the Bureau should order him to supply it?

Why not? Has there ever been a great battle fought since the invention of gun-powder, that was not accompanied or immediately followed by rain?

Arriving in this city at a very early hour, my friends and I took a stroll to one of the hotels for breakfast. The streets were all bustle and activity, as the Chinese gardeners and truckers were out in full force. Many of these people have leased small farms, and I am told they make good tenants. Indeed, some of the citizens tell me they are the best house servants in the world. One thing, they are a decided success as money-makers in whatever capacity they work.

Sacramento is an active, go-ahead business place, but the buildings and streets do not indicate that pride, enterprise and high order of taste and comfort which makes the cities of the East. Of one thing it may justly boast—the State Capitol building and its grounds. The building is substantial and handsome, being of granite. The grounds are perhaps the most beautiful and elegant to be found at any State capital in the United States. The grass, the walks, the evergreens, plants and flowers—the choicest to be found in this climate, and in beauty and variety the most admired, makes it indeed a fairy spot. In my short ramble I reached one conclusion—that for barber shops and grog shops it is excelled by no city of its size in this country.

The weather and climate is charming. Indeed, the languid Italian does not rest in a more peaceful consciousness of the superiority of his sky and climate than does the average Californian. But after all "there is no place like home" to me.

Am now off to Los Angeles, from which point I start on the 22d for Elizabeth City, N. C., by the Santa Fe route, and which, through the aid of close connections and good engines, I hope to reach on the 29th.

L. L. P.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

*. The Alliance Leader, organ of the New York State Alliance, is doing yeoman service for the organization. It is bold and fearless.

*. Read some of the resolutions we are getting about this time. A few of them are in this issue. Others will appear from time to time.

*. So far as we know the Concord Standard is the only daily paper outside of Raleigh that copied C. L. Polk's statement about his war record. The Standard has the courage to do justice to all men.

*. Col. Jim Cook, of the Concord Standard, announces that he will add a lady to his editorial force before long. All right, Jimmy, you ought to. But the question is: will she work for a salary or be a partner?

*. The fact that gold is returning to the United States in the face of the utilizing of \$50,000,000 worth of silver bullion a year as currency, disproves the statement that free silver coinage would drive gold out of the country.

*. The Georgia legislature refused to endorse the Ocala platform" has been going the rounds of the partisan press. On the last day of the session a vote was taken. It stood 138 for and 5 against. Two Republicans and three Democrats opposed it.

*. The brethren are taking a good deal of interest in the plans for relief of members who lose property by fire and otherwise. So far the plans suggested do not differ materially. When the returns are all in we will then know about what is needed and will formulate a plan.

*. A young woman began a song. "Ten thousand leaves are falling." She pitched it too high, and screeched and stopped. "Start her at five thousand," cried an auctioneer. Some of the newspapers that tell things on the Alliance might learn something from this.

*. The North American, discussing the national banking system, says that any half a dozen men can get the same privileges extended to bankers if they will purchase bonds on the same plan. That is a powerful argument indeed. Most anybody could be President of the United States if they could get votes. But we can't all be President and we can't all be bankers.

PRICE OF COTTON.

Owing to the financial situation and the uncertainty every way, we hesitate to suggest anything about the cotton crop. It has taken another tumble within a few days and may go lower. Instead of supply and demand controlling prices, it seems that the devil has established an office in Liverpool and a branch office in New York and is now manipulating prices.

We think prices will improve. Quotations for the spring months are better than they are now. One thing is certain, the crop is much shorter than was supposed some weeks ago. Hence we think it well enough to hold at least a part of your cotton if you can. Last year this proved disastrous, but then cotton was much higher during the fall than now. It is almost sure to go up this winter.

FROM CALIFORNIA.

President Polk Arrouses Alliance Enthusiasm—Great Crowds Greet Him.

[Special to THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER.]
LOS ANGELES, Cal., Oct. 21.—President Polk's visit to California has aroused Alliance enthusiasm to its highest pitch. His four days here have been days of heroic work. He has spoken morning, noon and night to audiences spellbound with his eloquence. Monday evening several hundred Union soldiers called upon him to thank him for his brave fight against sectionalism and in favor of fraternity and unity. Col. Polk's speech to the old soldiers was as touching and eloquent as ever fell from the lips of man. Tuesday evening the Alliance forces and all of the industrial orders tendered him a magnificent reception which was attended by thousands of people. An address of welcome was delivered to which he responded in most fitting terms. To-day he delivered a great, impressive speech to the Farmers' Alliance and Citizens' Alliance in joint convention. To-night a great mass-meeting, numbering over seven thousand people, assembled in Hazard's pavilion to listen to his address on the demands of the Order. Col. Polk surpassed all previous efforts, holding the closest attention of his audience for over two hours. His impassioned eloquence when pleading the cause of the industrial classes has rarely been equalled on any platform. No other man has ever before visited this coast and left so many warm personal friends behind him. He has captured the Union soldiers and the citizens of Los Angeles, and he has placed the Alliance cause in California in a position to win a splendid victory. California thanks him again and again for his powerful aid at this opportune time. Col. Polk leaves here to-morrow for North Carolina, where he speaks on the 29th.

THE COTTON CROP.

There is now no doubt about the cotton crop being short in North Carolina, and to this may be added a good deal of damage by frost within the past few days. All over the cotton belt the crop is said to be short, caused by bad seasons and by boll worms. There is a surplus on hand from last year, but with this short crop there is no reason why prices should not go up considerably.

It is quite likely that there is some kind of a combination to keep the price of cotton down and the price of cotton goods up, for the goods are entirely too high in proportion to the price of raw cotton. There is a two-fold purpose in this. One is to make money rapidly, the other to make the Sub-Treasury plan appear impracticable. But right now you have a practical illustration of the fallacy of the arguments against the scheme on the ground that the government would be likely to have a lot of cotton or grain on hand to dispose of at a loss. The grain crop was good last year, the cotton crop was the largest ever raised. Six months ago it looked like the government might have beer in a bad shape, but now we are again convinced (and some appeared to doubt it) that Providence never makes any mistakes. There is a great demand for grain and it is pretty certain that cotton will not go begging. So if there is no more serious objections to the Sub-Treasury scheme than the one just mentioned, it is a safe measure.

We can't tell to what extent the speculators will carry their game, but it is certain that if supply and demand governs prices, as it should, cotton will go up soon, and we think best to sell slowly. But if you hold your cotton be sure to put it under cover, for much cotton was damaged by staying out in the weather last winter.

WHAT HURTS THE ALLIANCE.

The State Chronicle of the 24th, referring to the report of Secretary Barnes in which he says there has been a "backward movement" of the Alliance in counties where partisan politics have been taken into the organization, says, in substance, that this confirms the belief heretofore expressed by the Chronicle that whenever partisan politics are allowed to enter it would "sound its death knell."

The Chronicle has taken hold of the wrong end of the matter. In two or three counties where Republican party influence has been very strong, and where strong partisans have had control, the organization has been damaged. In three or four counties where Democratic partisan influence has been unusually strong, the organization is weak. That is all there is of it. In all the other counties of the State where Alliancemen have not been bulldozed by unscrupulous politicians and filled with prejudice against the leaders of the Order and its aims, the organization is as strong or stronger than ever before. The trouble is partisan politics have held full sway in most other counties without the partisan prejudice that has cropped out in the counties mentioned.

ZEKE BILKINS.



He Wants to Know all About the Committee Meeting—Betsy Talks.

B.—"Hello! Mr. Devil!"
D.—"Hello! Mr. Bilkens. What can we do for you?"

B.—"I want to talk to the editor about that committee that met in Raleigh last week."

R.—"All right, Mr. Bilkens. What is it?"

B.—"I want to know what that committee of ten did."

R.—"I can't tell you, Mr. Bilkens. The address prepared by them has not appeared yet."

B.—"Well, Betsy she says she wants to know if they did anything to raise the price of chickens, and I want to know if they did anything to raise the price of cotton."

R.—"I can't tell you, Mr. Bilkens. If they did anything of the kind it is more than any political gathering has done in a good many years."

B.—"Well, why in the dickens don't they do something? Me an' Betsy are gettin' mity tired waitin'." Betsy says if the wimin could get to vote things would be different. But I told her that them inspired politicians could fool old Nick himself. But Betsy she thinks that the wimin wouldn't be fools enough to just keep on votin' year after year with times a gettin' worse all the time. She says we men are all "perilical fools," for we just let the money lords keep goin' to Congress and to the Senate. They stuff their pockets and help some of the other money lords to do the same and we have to foot the bill."

R.—"Your wife evidently has a level head."

B.—"You bet she has. Blamed if she don't make me git ashamed of my self lots of times. Hev you seen Mr. Smith since last week?"

R.—"Yes; see him often. He says he is going to have things all right."

B.—"How is he goin' ter do it?"

R.—"Well, they are going to reform the tariff."

B.—"Blast the tariff. I want that reformed, too, but it is not enough. I want the Sub Treasury bill passed, an' I ain't goin' to vote another lick if can't get to vote for men who are air it, heart and soul."

R.—"That is class legislation, Mr. Bilkens. It would ruin some of the poor millionaires. Nearly all the editors of political papers in North Carolina are millionaires and they oppose it. The lawyers are millionaires, too, and they can't become partners to this scheme."

B.—"But didn't Jefferson and Calhoun and Jackson and Jeff Davis and Abe Lincoln favor the farmers gettin' what they wanted, no matter what other people said?"

R.—"Yes, they all favored that plan. But at that time the farmers had the control of public affairs. Since the war our people have let politicians run our affairs and have not taken the interest they should have done."

B.—"That is so. But ain't the farmers sorter goin' into politics now?"

R.—"Yes, but you see that is the trouble. The politicians are losing their grip and their plan is to cry down the measures proposed by the farmers and to slander the men who have been elected to prominent positions in the Alliance."

B.—"Betsy wants to talk ter you. Can she?"

R.—"Yes; my hat is off now."

Mrs. B.—"Hello! Mr. Editor."

R.—"All right, Mrs. Bilkens."

Mrs. B.—"Ain't men mighty foolish to try to break down things by ridiclin' 'em?"

R.—"They are."

Mrs. B.—"Well, ain't men who slander people liars?"

R.—"That is plain language, but they belong to the family of liars."

Mrs. B.—"Well, ought we to trust them or elect them to public office when they act that way?"

R.—"Certainly it looks like nonsense to expect such men to make good laws or change bad ones, but we have been doing it."

Mrs. B.—"You men ought to be ashamed of yourselves. You ought to hide your faces for six months. If Zeke don't quit this sort of business, I'm goin' to get a divorce. I ain't goin' to live with a man who don't think any more of his country an' his wife an' children than to always be a fool just because he belongs to the 'party'."

Good-bye."

B.—"What did Betsy say?"

R.—"She said if you didn't quit actin' a fool she was going to get a divorce."

B.—"Betsy is right. But I'm goin' to do better. I'm goin' to vote for Betsy and the children hereafter. Good-bye."